This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) [[In a]] A storage area network (SAN) [[having a plurality of components]] including one-or-more a first and second digital data processors executing a first and second operating systems, respectively, in communication with one or more storage devices, the improvement comprising:

a first platform-specific process executing on a-first-one-of the first digital data preeessers processor, the first-digital-data-processor-executing under a first-operating system.;

a second platform-specific process executing on [[a]] the second one-of-the digital data preeessers processor, wherein the second-digital-data-processor-executing-under-a second operating system is different from the first operating system[[,]];

[[a]] common platform-independent preeess processes executing on the first and the second digital data processors[[,]]; and

the platform-independent preeess processes effecting execution of the first and second platform-specific processes via command line parameters.

2.   (Currently Amended) In-the The SAN of claim 2, the-further-improvement wherein each of the platform-specific processes communicates with the platform-independent process via a command line interface of its respective digital data processor operating system.

3.   (Currently Amended) In-the The SAN of claim 1, the-further-improvement wherein each of the first and the second operating systems can be any of a Unix™, a Windows™, Solaris, AIX operating systems.

4.   (Currently Amended) In-the The SAN of claim 1, [[the]] further improvement comprising a manager in communication with the common platform-independent preeess processes to transmit a request thereto for information regarding one or more components of the SAN.

5.   (Currently Amended) ~~In the~~ <u>The</u> SAN of claim 4, wherein the common platform independent ~~process responds~~ <u>processes respond</u> to the request from the manager by invoking ~~at least one of~~ the first and second platform-specific processes<u>, respectively</u>.

6.   (Currently Amended) ~~In the~~ <u>The</u> SAN of claim 5, ~~the further improvement~~ wherein the invoked platform specific ~~process gathers~~ <u>processes gather</u> information regarding one or more SAN components and ~~transmits~~ <u>transmit</u> the information to the Standard Output/Error of its respective digital data processor.

7.   (Currently Amended) ~~In the~~ <u>The</u> SAN of claim 6, ~~the further improvement~~ wherein the common platform independent ~~process captures~~ <u>processes capture</u> information in the Standard Output/Error transmitted by the invoked platform specific process.

8.   (Currently Amended) ~~In the~~ <u>The</u> SAN of claim 7, ~~the further improvement~~ wherein the common platform independent ~~process transmits~~ <u>processes transmit</u> the captured information to the manager for further processing.

9.   (Currently Amended) ~~In the~~ <u>The</u> SAN of claim 4, ~~the further improvement~~ wherein the manager comprises a query engine for transmitting the request to the common platform independent <u>processes</u> ~~process~~.

10.   (Currently Amended) ~~In the~~ <u>The</u> SAN of claim 9, ~~the further improvement~~ wherein the query engine comprises a registry identifying the common platform independent ~~process~~ <u>processes</u> and the digital data processors associated therewith.

11.   (Currently Amended) ~~In the~~ <u>The</u> SAN of claim 10, ~~the further improvement~~ wherein the registry provides one or more identifiers for communicating with the common platform independent ~~process~~ <u>processes</u>.

12.   (Currently Amended) ~~In the~~ <u>The</u> SAN of claim 9, ~~the further improvement~~ wherein the query engine formats the request in a mark-up language format.

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13.   (Currently Amended) In the The SAN of claim 12, the further improvement wherein the mark-up language can be any of XML and HTML.

14.   (Currently Amended) In the The SAN of claim 13, the further improvement wherein the platform independent process formats processes format the captured information in a mark-up language format for transmission to the manager.

15.   (Currently Amended) In a A storage area network having one or more components including one or more first and second digital data processors and one or more storage devices in communication with the digital data processors, comprising:

a manager in communication with the SAN components[[,]]

a first platform-specific process executing on [[a]] the first one of the digital data processors processor, the first digital data processor executing under a first operating system[[,]];

a second platform-specific process executing on [[a]] the second one of the digital data processors processor, the second digital data processor executing under a second operating system different from the first platform[[,]];

[[a]] common platform-independent process processes executing on the first and the second digital data processors and communicating with the first and the second platform-specific processes via one or more command-line parameters[[,]]; and

the manager transmits a query to the common platform-independent process processes to request information regarding one or more of the SAN components and the platform independent process invokes processes invoke at least one of the first and second platform-specific processes, respectively, to obtain the requested information.

16.   (Currently Amended) [[In the]] The SAN of claim 15, the further improvement wherein the invoked platform specific process gathers information regarding one or more of the SAN components and transmits the information to a command line interface of its respective digital data processor operating system.

17.   (Currently Amended) [[In the]] the SAN of claim 16, the further improvement wherein the common platform independent process captures processes capture the information in a Standard Output/Error transmitted by the invoked platform specific process.

18.   (Currently Amended) [[In the]] The SAN of claim 17, the further improvement wherein the manager comprises a query engine for forwarding the query from the manager to the common platform independent process.

19.   (Currently Amended) [[In the]] The SAN of claim 18, the further improvement wherein the query engine comprises a registry containing information for identifying the common platform independent process and its respective digital data processors.

20.   (Currently Amended) [[In the]] The SAN of claim 19, the further improvement wherein the common platform independent process registers with the registry to provide identification information thereto.

21.   (New) Computer readable media including code executed by a first and second digital data processors having first and second operating systems in communication with one or more storage devices, wherein the code comprises:
    a first platform-specific process executing on the first digital data processor;
    a second platform-specific process executing on the second digital data processor, wherein the second operating system is different from the first operating system;
    common platform-independent processes executing on the first and the second digital data processors, wherein the platform-independent processes effecting execution of the first and second platform-specific processes via command line parameters.

22.   (New) The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein each of the platform-specific processes communicates with the platform-independent process via a command line interface of its respective digital data processor operating system.

23.　　(New) The computer readable media of claim 21, further comprising:

　　a manager in communication with the common platform-independent processes to transmit a request thereto for information regarding one or more components of the SAN.

24.　　(New) The computer readable media of claim 21, wherein the common platform independent processes respond to the request from the manager by invoking the first and second platform-specific processes, respectively.

25.　　(New) The computer readable media of claim 24, wherein the invoked platform specific processes gather information regarding one or more SAN components and transmit the information to the Standard Output/Error of its respective digital data processor.

26.　　(New) The computer readable media of claim 24, wherein the manager comprises a query engine for transmitting the request to the common platform independent processes.